

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSSTEVEN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 160635

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI

SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION:
NOON BRIEFING 6/23/78

REFERENCE: STATE 159865

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT OF
CHILE PORTION OF 6/23/78 NOON BRIEFING:

2. I HAVE A STATEMENT HERE ON CHILE: (READ TEXT
PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED.)

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS? HAS IT
IMPROVED OF LATE? THE CHILEANS HAVE MADE SOME MAJOR MOVES
AND THERE IS ALSO TALK OF ELECTIONS AND RETURN TO
CIVILIAN RULE. AREN'T YOU...

A: WELL, BARRY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I ANTICIPATED
YOUR QUESTION AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO OFFER YOU VERY
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LITTLE ON THAT--IN FACT NOTHING. AT THIS JUNCTURE I
REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE SUBJECT OF THE CURRENT
STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN CHILE.

Q: I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WOULD BUT, JOHN, BY MENTIONING
IT WE BOTH KNOW THAT THE CLEAR INFERENCE IS DISAPPROVAL
OF THE CURRENT STATE AND I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WANTED
TO LEAVE IT THERE OR IF YOU WANTED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT
THE VARIOUS STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT OR, WOULD YOU JUST LIKE TO LEAVE THAT IMPLICIT

CONDEMNATION HANGING IN THE AIR?

A: I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE IT WHERE I LEFT IT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION THAT YOU PROBABLY WON'T ANSWER EITHER. ON THE SCALE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD, WOULD YOU PUT CHILE AT THE BOTTOM OR THE MIDDLE OR...

A: I WOULDN'T WANT TO PUT CHILE ANYWHERE IN THAT SCALE. I JUST DON'T WANT TO MAKE THAT KIND OF COMPARISON.

Q: JOHN IS THE IMPORT OF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING ON AM-BASSADOR LANDAU IS THAT HE IS GOING TO STAY HERE FOR CONSULTATIONS UNTIL THE CHILEANS ARE MORE FORTHCOMING IN MEETING AMERICAN REQUESTS?

A: I AM SIMPLY GOING TO SAY IS THAT I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE AMBASSADOR IS GOING BACK TO CHILE AND THAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO DRAW--I DON'T WANT TO OVERSTATE IT BUT I WILL LEAVE YOU TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS ON THAT. HE IS GOING TO BE HERE IN WASHINGTON--I THINK MONDAY. I ASKED THE QUESTION OF WHEN HE WILL RETURN AND THE ANSWER IS WE UNCLASSIFIED

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DON'T KNOW AT THE MOMENT.

Q: IS THIS INTENDED TO RELAY YOUR SIGN OF DISPLEASURE TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT?

A: I THINK WE WILL JUST, ON THAT ONE, STICK TO WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q: SOME CHILEAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE U.S. IS NOT FORTHCOMING WITH COOPERATING WITH CHILE ON CHILE'S INVESTIGATION OF THESE MURDERS. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

A: WELL I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION. THAT IS A MATTER THAT YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW IS BEING HANDLED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. I DON'T BELIEVE ITS OUR POSITION THAT WE'VE BEEN UNCOOPERATIVE.

Q: WHAT INFORMATION ARE WE SEEKING THAT THEY ARE NOT PROVIDING?

A: AGAIN, I CAN'T REALLY GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID ON THIS. IT'S GOING TO BE JUST THAT WAY.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF THERE IS A PL-480 PROGRAM FOR CHILE BY ANY CHANCE?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DO ANY PEOPLE IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM KNOW?

A: I DON'T THINK ANYBODY KNOWS.

Q: I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT USE IT TO BRING PRESSURE ON CHILE?

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Q: THE COMMODITIES CREDIT CORPORATION HAS JUST SIGNED 2 AGREEMENTS WITH CHILE TOTALING, I THINK, MORE THAN \$40 MILLION OVERALL AND IN ADDITION AS HAVE BEEN POINTED OUT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THERE ARE VARIOUS OTHER THINGS IN WHAT WE CALL THE PIPELINE GOING ON DOWN THERE. IS ALL THIS GOING TO PROCEED NORMALLY AS FAR AS YOU KNOW?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO THINK THAT IT WON'T. WE DID HAVE SOMETHING THE OTHER DAY, YOU MAY REMEMBER, ABOUT FINS FOR BOMBS. PRACTICE BOMBS GOING TO CHILE. ON THAT I CAN SAY THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MATTER OF THE IMPENDING SHIPMENT ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILE, AND OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE QUESTION OF "PIPELINE" SHIPMENTS OF MILITARY MATERIALS TO CHILE. THE BOMB FIN ASSEMBLIES NOW AWAITING SHIPMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO WILL NOT BE LOADED ABOARD SHIP FOR THE TIME BEING, WHILE THIS ASSESSMENT IS BEING CONDUCTED.

Q: HAVE WE IN ANY WAY SUGGESTED, ASKED OR REQUESTED OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR OR ANY CHILEAN OFFICIALS HERE MIGHT LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON VACATION OR SOME OTHER BUSINESS?

A: NO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR THE RANK WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO WHILE THE AMBASSADOR IS HERE?

A: I THINK THE RANK WILL BE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. I DON'T HAVE THE NAME, BUT I CAN GET IT FOR YOU. DO YOU WANT TO HAVE THE NAME.

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Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE THEN?

A: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS--I THINK, RATHER THAN HAVE ME DEFINE THEM FOR YOU, I THINK THAT

WHAT I'VE SAID SO FAR HERE TODAY WILL PRETTY WELL COVER THE GROUND. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A DEFINITIVE DESCRIPTION OF WHAT OUR RELATIONS ARE WITH CHILE.

Q: THE LAST SENTENCE YOU READ--I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE SHIPMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS TO DO WITH THAT LITTLE PHRASE YOU HAVE TUCKED INTO THAT SENTENCE?

A: WHICH LITTLE PHRASE?

Q: WELL YOU HAVE THAT--IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS--WHAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IMPINGE ON SHIPMENTS, OR ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO SHOW DISAPPROVAL BY HOLDING BACK...

A: WELL ONE OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS--I THINK IS THE INVESTIGATION OF THE LETELIER/MOFFITT AFFAIR. AND AS I SAY, THE CHILEANS HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING ON IMPORTANT REQUESTS WE'VE MADE TO THEM IN THAT MATTER. AND THAT IS CERTAINLY ONE ASPECT OF...

Q: AND BECAUSE OF THAT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LET THE WEAPONS SHIPMENT GO THROUGH?

A: I THINK THAT...

Q: THE INVESTIGATION OF THE LETELIER IS CONNECTED TO SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS TO CHILE?

A: NO I DIDN'T SAY THAT. GOING BACK TO THE BOMB FIN ASSEMBLIES THING, THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF PIPELINE SHIPMENT OF MILITARY MATERIALS TO COUNTRIES WITH SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS INCLUDING THIS PARTICULAR CASE--THAT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE BOMB ASSEMBLIES--IS UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. I THINK THAT PROBABLY THAT AT LEAST HELPS THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q: UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT A BOMB FIN IS BUT I UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT MATERIAL THAT COULD BE USED FOR INTERNAL SUPPRESSION OF RIGHTS--THAT WE HOLD BACK POLICE EQUIPMENT--THAT WE HOLD BACK IF WE DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE COUNTRY IS TREATING ITS CITIZENS, WE SOMETIMES, GENERALLY IN THE CASE OF SMALL COUNTRIES, WE HOLD BACK SHIPMENTS OF POLICE EQUIPMENT. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT A BOMB FIN ASSEMBLY HAS TO DO WITH THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE?

A: I'M NOT SURE I CAN TELL YOU WHAT IT HAS TO DO. YOU WILL RECALL, I BELIEVE, THAT THE INITIAL HALT ON THOSE FIN ASSEMBLIES WAS BY ACTION OF PEOPLE OTHER THAN THE USG. I THINK SOME OF THE DOCKWORKERS, ORGANIZATIONS AND

OTHERS. WE ARE IN ANY CASE NOT LOADING THEM WHILE WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WE CONSTANTLY DO WITH CHILE AND OTHER COUNTRIES. I DON'T THINK I CAN ANSWER YOU BETTER THAN THAT.

Q: JOHN, THERE IS AN INTERESTING, ALBEIT IMPERFECT ANALOGY BETWEEN WHAT THE U.S. CONGRESS IS DOING IN REGARD TO KOREA AND WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOW SEEMS TO BE DOING IN REGARD TO CHILE AND I WONDER IF YOU COULD JUST BLAST A FEW OF THE LOOPHOLES OF THAT? OBVIOUSLY I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DIFFERENCES THERE ARE, BUT MAYBE YOU CAN CLARIFY THEM?

A: WELL I THINK ONE THING I WOULD POINT OUT TO YOU IS THAT IT'S CONGRESS THAT HAS TAKEN A STEP WHERE KOREA IS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCERNED IN CUTTING THE PL-480. THE ACTION ON THE CHILE BOMB FIN ASSEMBLIES IS AN ACTION WE ARE CONCERNED WITH IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Q: BUT SURELY YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING THAT CONGRESS HAS CEDED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS?

A: NO. I'M SAYING IF YOU ARE TRYING TO COMPARE 2 ACTIONS, IT CAN BE MADE DIFFICULT TO COMPARE WHEN THE ACTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN BY TWO DIFFERENT ENTITIES.

Q: I DO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH--WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET TO IS THE MERIT OF WITH-HOLDING AID IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER TO BRING ABOUT A TOTALLY DIFFERENT AFFECT IN A TOTALLY UNRELATED AREA. I'M WONDERING IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN TO ME WHERE THE ANALOGY BREAKS DOWN?

A: I DON'T THINK I WANT TO TRY.
(LENGTHY QUESTION ON KOREA ASPECT OMITTED.)

Q: IN THE LAST STATEMENT ON CHILE YOU SAID THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WAS QUITE FAVORABLE. NOW YOU ARE LEAVING US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED IN THE INTERIM PERIOD.

A: NO. WHAT I THINK WHAT I SAID ON THE RECALL OF AMB. LANDAU RELATES PRETTY SPECIFICALLY TO THE LETELIER CASE.

Q: BY THE GRATUITOUS REMARK OF REVIEWING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AND YOU ALSO REFER TO COUNTRIES WITH SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WHICH YOU ALSO MENTIONED. THERE IS A GAP THAT SHOULD BE FILLED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

A: I THINK ITS A VARIATION THAT WAS ASKED. THE RECALL OF THE AMBASSADOR RELATES TO A SPECIFIC THING.

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Q: IT RELATED TO TWO THINGS. YOU SAID IT IN YOUR
OPENING STATEMENT.

A: THE PRESENCE OF AN AMBASSADOR FOR ANY REASON IN
WASHINGTON IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW BILATERAL MATERIAL
WITH THE COUNTRY FOR WHICH HE IS ACCREDITED. THAT'S THE
CASE HERE WITH THIS AMBASSADOR. NO ONE IS SAYING AND I
THINK I SAID IT HERE, NO ONE IS DENYING HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS IN CHILE AND WE'VE HAD VARYING THINGS TO SAY IN
THE PAST ABOUT WHAT WE FELT ABOUT THOSE. I DON'T IN
ANNOUNCING THIS THING TODAY MEAN TO MAKE ANY DIRECT
COMMENT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS
IN CHILE OR WHAT WE THINK OF THEM. VANCE

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